

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01

SCSE-00 USIA-15 AGR-20 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 053443

R 241715Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1428

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 2900

AFDROUGHT

USUN FOR KOEHRING

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: DROUGHT SITUATION NORTH CAMEROON

REF: YAOUNDE 2326

1. PER REFTEL BEERY AND HOGAN HAVE RETURNED FROM ONE-WEEK TRIP TO NORTH CAMEROON TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON EFFECTS OF DROUGHT AND ATTEMPT TO ESTIMATE CROP PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT RAINY SEASON.

2. FOOD SITUATION NOT CRITICAL IN SOUTHERN PART OF PROVINCE

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IN AREA AROUND GAROUA, ALTHOUGH 1972/73 HARVEST WAS BELOW NORMAL.

HOWEVER, AREA NORTH OF LINE RUNNING BETWEEN DOURBEYE, GUIDER, KAELE TO YAGOUA IS NOW SUFFERING FOOD SHORTAGES. SINCE CROPS WILL NOT BE HARVESTED BEFORE OCTOBER, SITUATION IS APPROACHING CRITICAL STAGE TO POINT THAT NORTHERN PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OUSMANE MEY HAS REQUESTED EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

3. PROSPECTS FOR PRESENT CROP ARE NOT PROMISING. RAINS BEGAN VERY LATE AND TO MID-JULY WERE BUT 58 PERCENT OF NORMAL. UNLESS RAINS CONTINUE BEYOND END OF NORMAL SEASON A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THESE LATE PLANTINGS WILL PRODUCE POOR CROPS AT BEST AND THERE WILL BE MANY FAILURES. MR. ABAMADAM LIMAN, PROVINCIAL ECONOMIST, ESTIMATES CEREAL PRODUCTION MAY NOT EXCEED 50% OF NORMAL 300/325,000 TONS WHICH VIRTUALLY ALL REQUIRED FOR LOCAL COMSUMPTION. HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY 45% OF PRODUCTION IN NORTH IS DERIVED FROM PLANTINGS OF MUSKWARI SORGHUM WHICH ARE SET OUT AROUND END OF SEPTEMBER AND HARVESTED DURING THE DRY SEASON (JAN-FEB.) THIS VARIETY IS PLANTED AT END OF RAINY SEASON IN HEAVY SOILS WITH HIGH WATER RETENTION CAPACITY. THUS, OVERALL CEREAL PRODUCTION FOR REGION CANNOT BE ESTIMATED UNTIL NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER SURVEYS OF MUSKWARI PLANTINGS.

4. MARKETS VISITED IN GAROUA, MAROUA, BOBO AND MORA ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION HAD LIMITED AMOUNTS OF SORGHUM, MILLET AND RICE AVAILABLE AND PRICES WERE HIGH. SORGHUM AND MILLET WERE SELLING AT 60-65 CFA PER KG. VS. 15-20 CFA AT HARVEST. FIRST QUALITY RICE WAS SELLING FOR CFA 125-140 PER KG. (GURC DOES NOT CONTROL GRAIN PRICES.) VILLAGES IN THE MORA AND MOKOLO AREAS WERE REPORTED AS HAVING SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR BUT 2-3 WEEKS.

5. A SHORT CROP THIS COMING SEASON, WHICH APPEARS VERY LIKELY, WILL MAKE IT NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR FOOD SUPPLY PROGRAM FOR THE PROVINCE. SOUTHERN AND WESTERN CAMEROON MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TONNAGES. WE ARE ATTEMPTING OBTAIN DATA ON NORMAL FOOD SURPLUS IF ANY FROM THESE AREAS. FOR THIS REASON RDO/Y MONITORING SITUATION CONTINUOUSLY TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. IF GURC SHOULD MAKE A REQUEST FOR FAMINE RELIEF. A SECOND SURVEY TRIP TO THE NORTH WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER OR EARLIER IF DEEMED DESIRED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FIRST - HAND INFORMATION ON THE FOOD SITUATION.

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MOORE

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